

Message Text

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64

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGR-05 COME-00 H-02 SP-02 AID-05

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 523

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 3005

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR

SUBJ: COFFEE PRICES

REF: STATE 44078

1. SOVIET COFFEE UNFORTUNATELY NOT PACKAGED IN "REGULAR ONE POUND CANS" NOR "SIX-OUNCE JARS". HOWEVER, CONVERTING FROM .35 RUBLES (ONE RUBLE EQUALS 1.32 DOLS) PER 100 GRAMS, PRESENT RETAIL PRICE IS ABOUT US 2.25 DOLS. PER POUND FOR REGULAR GROUND COFFEE AND ROUGHLY FIVE DOLLARS PER 6-OUNCES FOR INSTANT COFFEE. ANOTHER SELECTION IS 200-GRAM BAG OF "NATURAL DRIED UNGROUND COFFEE BEANS" AT ONE RUBLE, OR ABOUT 2.97 DOLS. PER POUND. EMBASSY'S RETAIL PRICE SCHEDULE (DATED APRIL 1975) INDICATES THAT PRICE OF SOVIET COFFEE AT THAT TIME WAS RUBLES 4.50 FOR ONE KILOGRAM OR ABOUT 2.85 DOLS. PER POUND.

2. ACCORDING TO SOVIET STATISTICS, IN 1974 BRAZIL SUPPLIED 15,800 TONS OF TOTAL 46,700 TONS IMPORTED COFFEE. BALANCE CAME FROM INDIA (15,200 TONS), UGANDA (5,900 TONS) AND COSTA RICA (1,500 TONS). SOVIET FIGURES FOR 1975 NOT YET AVAILABLE BUT BRAZILIAN ECONOMIC COUNSELOR REPORTS HIS COUNTRY SOLD USSR 24,000 TONS FOR ABOUT 27 MILLION DOLS., WHICH HE ESTIMATES IS 60 PER CENT OF TOTAL SOVIET IMPORTS.

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Message Attributes

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